

Cleaning precautions to prevent the spread of Coronavirus

How to: Prevent the spreading of Coronavirus (COVID19) by undertaking the correct cleaning and disinfecting regimes



Introduction:

COVID19 is a highly contagious and infectious disease caused by the Coronavirus. It spreads through airborne droplets released from by individuals coughing or sneezing. You can also catch the virus from contaminated surfaces such as door handles, handrails etc then touch your mouth, nose or eyes which proves a route of entry of the virus. An infected person can also be contagious before developing symptoms self-isolate.

Therefore, in order to contain the spread of this infectious disease, Skanska are adopting additional precautionary measures of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, including from infected but not yet symptomatic individuals. Antibacterial wipes are not effective against viruses. Disinfectants products which are effective against viruses should instead be used.

Listed below are guidelines relating to cleaning procedures that need to be followed:

1. When cleaning avoid creating splashes or spray.
2. Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, following one of the below options:
 - Disinfectant wipes (anti-viral), see below.
 - A combined detergent-disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine.
 - A household detergent followed by addition of disinfection with 1000 ppm av. Cl. Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants.
 - If an alternative disinfectant is used, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses.
3. When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example carpets, steam cleaning should be used and undertaken regularly.
4. Ensure that vehicles, plant / machinery, hand-tools or re-useable RPE are cleaned using **disinfectant** wipes / spray on all areas that are commonly touched. This must be before and after each shift, sharing items or working / traveling together within the 2m social distance rule.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Contract Directors/Project Directors:

Ensure Coronavirus information is communicated to project teams and is continuously reviewed.

Project Managers/Operations Managers:

Ensure enough financial, material and labour resource is available to ensure compliance with cleaning protocols.

Site Managers/Construction Managers:

To ensure site teams manage and facilitate a robust cleaning regime as expressed by this standard.

Frontline Supervisors:

To ensure those tasked with cleaning can do so without hinderance or delay and execute in a safe manner. Ensure any additional material required to complete the task is available to those who require it. Brief teams on relevant RAMS and COSHH data sheets.

Operatives/ Cleaners:

Undertake cleaning regime in a safe manner to themselves and others. Report issues including lack of materials.

Waste disposal

Waste from disinfecting areas i.e. disposable cloths, paper rolls etc. should be **double bagged and tied closed**, before placing into normal waste. If the waste has been used to disinfect after a confirmed or suspected infected individual, then the bags should be stored securely (not in communal areas) for 72hours before disposing of as normal waste.

Cleaning of defined areas / surfaces

1. Public or communal areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are **not** visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned using your normal cleaning regime.
2. Specific surfaces, including those that symptomatic, or non-symptomatic but infected, individuals may have come into contact with **must** be cleaned thoroughly with disinfectant cleaning products. Areas where this may be happening are high-contact areas such as:
 - Touch surfaces of toilet and shower rooms
 - Canteen tables, chairs, kettles etc.
 - Locker / changing rooms
 - Door handles, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells
 - Office desks, telephones etc.
 - Access point turnstiles and fingerprint scanners
 - Steering wheels, seatbelts, controls etc.

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Risk factors to be addressed through control measures

There are several risk factors that must be considered, which can affect the level of risk of an infection of COVID19 to individuals:

1. The type of surface to be contaminated – there is scientific evidence to suggest the virus has different living periods on different surfaces such as plastic, cardboard etc. It is expected that the risk of infection will, in most circumstances, reduce significantly after 72 hours.
2. The amount of virus shed from the individual i.e. transmitting quantities of the virus. This includes the time the individual spent in the setting to be cleaned, or when they were last there.
3. The cleaning regime undertaken to reduce the spread of infection of the virus. First clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water using a disposable cloth. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles.
4. The necessary protection methods taken by those completing the cleaning regime, such as personal protective equipment. Wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning, Use eyes, mouth and nose protection in known COVID19 contaminated areas.
5. Avoid touching any part of your face before removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning, then washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. The order for PPE removal is, gloves (wash hand), eye protection (wash hands), face mask or respirator (wash hand). PPE should be put on and removed in an order that minimises the potential for self-contamination.
6. The removal of skin to skin contact when undertaking activities.
7. Ensuring compliance with relevant guidance that has been released by both Skanska, the Government, Public Health England and Construction Leadership Council, see hyperlinks below.



Above are examples of recommended disinfectant wipes to be used instead of anti-bacterial wipes. Products must contain disinfectant to stop the spreading of the virus.

Linked Documents

[GOV.UK Coronavirus](#)

[COVID-19 Decontamination in non-healthcare settings](#)

[PHE taking off PPE for non-aerosol generating procedures](#)

[CLC Site Operating Procedures \(SOP\)](#)